

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

FILED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA  
2017 APR 17 PM 3:59  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL HALSTEAD,

Defendant.

8:16CR297

PLEA AGREEMENT

IT IS HEREBY AGREED between the plaintiff, United States of America, through its counsel, Deborah R. Gilg, United States Attorney, and Michael P. Norris, Assistant United States Attorney, and defendant, MICHAEL HALSTEAD, and James M. Davis, counsel for defendant, as follows:

**I**

**THE PLEA**

A. **CHARGE(S) & FORFEITURE ALLEGATION(S).**

Defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count I of the Indictment. Count I charges a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(2).

**II**

**NATURE OF THE OFFENSE**

A. **ELEMENTS EXPLAINED.**

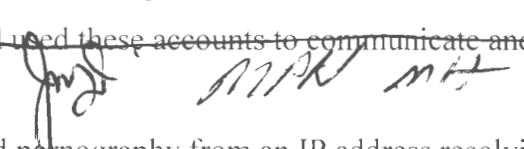
Defendant understands that the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty has the following elements:

1. The defendant knowingly received, or attempted to receive, a visual depiction in interstate commerce by any means, including by computer;
  2. The production of such visual depiction involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
  3. That such visual depiction was of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
  4. The defendant knew that such visual depiction was of sexually explicit conduct;
- and

5. The defendant knew that at least one of the persons engaged in sexually explicit conduct in such visual depiction was a minor.

B. ELEMENTS UNDERSTOOD AND ADMITTED - FACTUAL BASIS.

Defendant has fully discussed the facts of this case with defense counsel. Defendant has committed each of the elements of the crime, and admits that there is a factual basis for this guilty plea. The following facts are true and undisputed.

1. Michael Halstead operated a Facebook account "lisa.johnston.94064@facebook.com". He also operated a Yahoo! account "johnston181@yahoo.com". ~~Halstead used these accounts to communicate and share child pornography with others.~~ 
2. Facebook reported the transfer of child pornography from an IP address resolving to Halstead's wife in Gretna, Nebraska and IP address in Costa Mesa, California. The Cybertip forwarded by Facebook to NCMEC showed that on June 4, 2016, the IP address resolving to Gretna, Nebraska, was used to share an image of a 4- to 7-year-old girl, bound, gagged, and naked in an empty cabinet. The girl is completely naked, has a ball gag in her mouth and is tied by rope.
3. On May 24, 2016, Halstead was involved on a Facebook messenger chat commenting on an image being shared. The image was of a 4- to 7-year-old girl with her face in an adult male's buttocks appearing to be performing a sexual act with her tongue or mouth on the adult male's anal orifice.
4. On August 19, 2016, officers executed a search warrant on Halstead's residence in Gretna. After denying the identity of Lisa Johnston and denying that he had received the images referenced above, Halstead admitted to making the Lisa Johnston identity. He made the false profile so he could participate in chat rooms. He admitted receiving the Cybertip images and engaging in sexual chats with another Facebook user. He admitted receiving "a handful" of images of children engaging in sexual acts with adults. He believed he received a total of five images from his Facebook friend.
5. Although no images were found on Halstead's devices, the lisajohnston Facebook profile was located on two devices belonging to Halstead. Facebook messages

with other females around the United States were observed. Halstead used images of his pregnant stepdaughter to promote a fantasy chat involving incest.

### **III**

#### **PENALTIES**

A. COUNT I. Defendant understands that the crime to which defendant is pleading guilty carries the following penalties:

1. A maximum 20 years in prison; and a mandatory minimum of 5 years;
2. A maximum \$250,000 fine;
3. A mandatory special assessment of \$100 per count and \$5,000 restitution; and
4. A term of supervised release of at least 5 years, and up to life. Defendant understands that failure to comply with any of the conditions of supervised release may result in revocation of supervised release, requiring defendant to serve in prison all or part of the term of supervised release.
5. Possible ineligibility for certain Federal benefits.

### **IV**

#### **AGREEMENT LIMITED TO U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA**

This plea agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska, and cannot bind any other federal, state or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

### **V**

#### **SENTENCING ISSUES**

A. SENTENCING AGREEMENTS.

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(C), the parties agree the defendant shall receive a sentence of 60 months. This negotiated agreement resolves all issues related to the case and is the appropriate disposition. Defendant waives the right to seek or receive a sentence reduction pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2).

B. "FACTUAL BASIS" AND "RELEVANT CONDUCT" INFORMATION.

The parties agree that the facts in the "factual basis" paragraph of this agreement, if any, are true, and may be considered as "relevant conduct" under U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3 and as the nature and circumstances of the offense under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1).

The parties agree that all information known by the office of United States Pretrial Service may be used by the Probation Office in submitting its presentence report, and may be disclosed to the court for purposes of sentencing.

## VI

### **DEFENDANT WAIVES APPEAL AND COLLATERAL ATTACK**

The defendant hereby knowingly and expressly waives any and all rights to appeal the defendant's conviction and sentence, including any restitution order in this case, and including a waiver of all motions, defenses, and objections which the defendant could assert to the charges or to the Court's entry of Judgment against the defendant, and including review pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3742 of any sentence imposed, except:

- (a) As provided in Section I above, (if this is a conditional guilty plea); and
- (b) A claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.

The defendant further knowingly and expressly waives any and all rights to contest the defendant's conviction and sentence in any post-conviction proceedings, including any proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, except:

- (a) The right to timely challenge the defendant's conviction and the sentence of the Court should the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals or the United States Supreme Court later find that the charge to which the defendant is agreeing to plead guilty fails to state a crime.
- (b) The right to seek post-conviction relief based on ineffective assistance of counsel.

If defendant breaches this plea agreement, at any time, in any way, including, but not limited to, appealing or collaterally attacking the conviction or sentence, the United States may prosecute defendant for any counts, including those with mandatory minimum sentences, dismissed or not charged pursuant to this plea agreement. Additionally, the United States may use any factual admissions made by defendant pursuant to this plea agreement in any such prosecution.

## VII

### **BREACH OF AGREEMENT**

Should it be concluded by the United States that the defendant has committed a crime subsequent to signing the plea agreement, or otherwise violated this plea agreement, the defendant shall then be subject to prosecution for any federal, state, or local crime(s) which this

agreement otherwise anticipated would be dismissed or not prosecuted. Any such prosecution(s) may be premised upon any information, statement, or testimony provided by the defendant.

In the event the defendant commits a crime or otherwise violates any term or condition of this plea agreement, the defendant shall not, because of such violation of this agreement, be allowed to withdraw the defendant's plea of guilty, and the United States will be relieved of any obligation it otherwise has under this agreement, and may withdraw any motions for dismissal of charges or for sentence relief it had already filed.

## **VIII**

### **SCOPE OF AGREEMENT**

A. This plea agreement embodies the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes any other agreement, written or oral.

B. By signing this agreement, the defendant agrees that the time between the date the defendant signs this agreement and the date of the guilty plea will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act. The defendant stipulates that such period of delay is necessary in order for the defendant to have opportunity to enter the anticipated plea of guilty, and that the ends of justice served by such period of delay outweigh the best interest of the defendant and the public in a speedy trial.

C. The United States may use against the defendant any disclosure(s) the defendant has made pursuant to this agreement in any civil proceeding. Nothing contained in this agreement shall in any manner limit the defendant's civil liability which may otherwise be found to exist, or in any manner limit or prevent the United States from pursuing any applicable civil remedy, including but not limited to remedies regarding asset forfeiture and/or taxation.

D. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013, the defendant will pay to the Clerk of the District Court the mandatory special assessment of \$100 for each felony count to which the defendant pleads guilty. The defendant will make this payment at or before the time of sentencing.

E. By signing this agreement, the defendant waives the right to withdraw the defendant's plea of guilty pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(d). The defendant may only withdraw the guilty plea in the event the court rejects the plea agreement pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(5). Furthermore, defendant understands that if the court rejects the plea agreement, whether or not defendant withdraws the guilty plea, the United States is relieved of any obligation it had under the agreement and defendant shall be subject to



prosecution for any federal, state, or local crime(s) which this agreement otherwise anticipated would be dismissed or not prosecuted.

F. This agreement may be withdrawn by the United States at any time prior to its being signed by all parties.

**IX**

**MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT MUST BE IN WRITING**

No promises, agreements or conditions have been entered into other than those set forth in this agreement, and none will be entered into unless in writing and signed by all parties.

**X**

**DEFENDANT AND COUNSEL FULLY UNDERSTAND AGREEMENT**

By signing this agreement, defendant certifies that defendant read it (or that it has been read to defendant in defendant's native language). Defendant has discussed the terms of this agreement with defense counsel and fully understands its meaning and effect.

4/17/17  
Date

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEBORAH R. GILG  
United States Attorney

Michael P. Norris  
MICHAEL P. NORRIS  
ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY

3/31/2017  
Date

Michael Halstead  
MICHAEL HALSTEAD  
DEFENDANT

3-31-17  
Date

James M. Davis  
JAMES M. DAVIS  
COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT